

District 8: On The Issues



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Over the past year and a half, it has been and continues to be a pleasure and privilege to serve you as your voice on the City Council.

With the passage of the city budget in September, and the start of our new fiscal year, District 8 truly has reason to celebrate. Our municipal budgets continue to focus on providing the highest level of services possible to the residents of San Antonio. For our current fiscal year, Council again made infrastructure needs and concerns a top priority. I am proud to have been a leading voice on funding the mobility enhancements and transportation initiatives important to not only San Antonio but the entire region, public safety personnel, the San Antonio Symphony, the San Antonio Technology Initiative Accelerator, and the South Texas Medical Center infrastructure improvements.

A hallmark of the current municipal budget, aside from the programs and projects funded, is this is the twelfth year in a row the City has not raised property taxes. However, with property valuations continuing to increase and a growing number of seniors living on fixed incomes in District 8, I am inclined to support a property tax freeze. Such an action will further encourage the City Council to continue to be more efficient in its fiscal management.

As a community, we have come together and moved forward major projects which will benefit a number of neighborhoods in our district. Around our district we are seeing the ongoing work from the 2003-2007 bond program. The first public pool in District 8, at Springtime Park, will be open next summer. Plans are underway for the expanded parking lot at Cody Library, the busiest public branch library in San Antonio, which will see the parking lot double in size by the summer of 2005. Additional repairs to the facility have also been funded from the bond program.

City Council has also approved the purchase of land at the Hausman/1604 Library site to create youth practice fields and walking trails to compliment the library being built. This library will be a magnet for families in the area. With increased funding from the last bond election, the library will feature larger meeting and multipurpose rooms, as well as city services above and beyond the traditional library. We expect the library to be open in 2006.

We have taken strides to ensure neighborhoods are protected from businesses which could be detrimental to the character and integrity of the surrounding property. I am proud to have been actively involved in working with the Woods of Shavano Neighborhood Association to protest a proposed bar which would have been located at the front of their subdivision. This bar would have been allowed under a loophole in the City's Unified Development Code that allowed bars and taverns in C2 zoning without Council approval, a loophole that we have now closed.



City Councilman Art A. Hall

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Environmental and economic concerns must be balanced as San Antonio continues to grow. The protection of the Edwards Aquifer remains a paramount value of mine as we look at continued requests for rezoning and development over the aquifer. We have also worked tirelessly to ensure that as we protect quality of life issues for all residents, we still encourage business growth and development. I have promoted incentives to attract and keep high paying jobs in San Antonio while encouraging developers to work closely with neighborhoods and homeowners associations, recognizing that consensus growth is the best possible way to move our city forward. I continue to work to implement policies that will encourage the city to use local and small businesses in city contracts, keeping public funds in San Antonio to help stimulate more growth and return for the backbone of our economy.

We have, as a community, increased open dialogue and discussions of issues and become stronger because of the discussion. The needs of our senior citizens and the support we provide as a City to all our residents led me to push for the creation of the first in a series of Senior Resource and Health Centers in San Antonio. The first of these new Senior “One-Stops” will be built in the South Texas Medical Center and will make use of the focus and priority of the surrounding area to promote healthier living and activities for all seniors. This project was the only project proposed by a member of the City Council to receive matching funds from Bexar County to be a joint City-County effort in the last City bond election.

We have also had our share of changes in San Antonio, from the passage of the first campaign finance ordinance in the history of our city, of which I was a strong supporter, to the resignation of City Manager Terry Brechtel, an issue I could not support, to the passage of the Advanced Transportation District in November, an election that will truly change the direction of San Antonio’s transportation needs.

Each of these changes has had a profound impact on the future of San Antonio. I, for one, am thankful that through all of the changes, we have remained a close community, disagreeing on issues at times, but never forgetting we are working together to make San Antonio even better.

We need to continue to take the strides we can to make San Antonio an even better city in which to live, a city we can all be proud to call home.

My staff and I join together to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and we look forward to being of service to you in the coming months.

With best wishes and warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art A. Hall', with a stylized, cursive script.

ART A. HALL
City Councilman, District 8

A Clean Sweep in Oxbow



Councilman Hall operating the Brush Crane during the Oxbow Sweep

The Neighborhood Sweep program has modified the City of San Antonio's practice of providing services to neighborhoods on a first-come, first-serve, work-order basis.

The sweep program serves the needs of the community and the residents by enhancing the quality of life of the neighborhood. The program also encourages and improves communication between the city government and residents. As a result, the program helps promote long-term maintenance.

In order to be considered to have a sweep in your neighborhood, an application must be submitted. The City promotes applications from neighborhoods through local media such as the newspaper, the City's website, and presentations to the community.

All of the applications and recommended neighborhoods are assessed and the Neighborhood Action Department presents recommendations to Council staff. In the end, each Council member selects two neighborhoods each year in which to target the sweep.

The Oxbow neighborhood was one of the two neighborhoods chosen for a sweep for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The sweep began August 30th and ended September 10th.

During the sweep: 9 stray dogs were picked up, 10 stickers were placed on vehicles considered to be an environmental risk, 14 acres of grass was mowed, 43.39 tons of brush was picked up, and 14 tickets were issued, 4 for speeding and 10 for expired stickers and no insurance.

"The important part of a neighborhood sweep is that it empowers the residents to make their neighborhood a better place to live," said Councilman Hall.

For more information, please contact the District 8 Office at 207-2888 or Neighborhood Action at 219-5933.



Councilman Hall addressing the Oxbow Sweep Press Conference



Councilman Hall joins with Oxbow residents and Masters Gardeners in planting trees in the pocket park.

"Our Part of Town" Winners

12 Years and Under

Clarissa Hartley
Overall Winner

13 – 19 Years

Jamie Goldman and Nicki Prian
Overall Winner—(not pictured)

20 Years and Over

Phoenyxx
Quincy Freeman, James Comeir, Scott
Woodcox,
and Joseph Lewis Jr.
Overall Winner



Councilman Hall and Clarissa Hartley
12 years and under category winner



Councilman Hall with Phoenyxx
20 years and over category overall winner



Councilman Hall with judges and tabulator for the
2004 Our Part of Town Talent Show

Friends and Neighbors Come Together National Night Out 2004



Councilman Hall discussing the potential senior sales tax freeze, with residents at Castle Hills Forrest National Night Out



Councilman Hall and SAFPE officer along with residents from Castle Hills Forest



Councilman Hall and Stephanie Hall with residents from the Parkwood Subdivision



Councilman Hall with residents from Hills and Dales Neighborhood Association



Councilman Hall and Stephanie Hall with members of the Hunters Creek Homeowners Association



Councilman Hall with Adam Falkiewicz, President of the Woods of Shavano

Crownridge Natural Area Set To Open First of the City's Prop 3 Parks

In May 2000, voters of the City of San Antonio approved a 1/8-cent sales tax for the purchase of land over the Edward Aquifer Recharge Zone. The Edwards Aquifer is the City's primary source of water. This initiative was brought forward after many of the citizens became concerned about the growing amount of land being developed over the recharge zone.



Councilman Hall and former Councilwoman Conner at the Crownridge Ground Breaking

Four years later the money for the recharge zone portion of this sales tax has been spent and we have purchased 6,483.88 acres for conservation and light recreational use. We were also able to work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in obtaining a grant to

leverage money and expand the Government Canyon State Natural Area to a total of 8,201 acres.

The City has finished a development plan that provides guidelines on how to develop properties within this

program. The first property developed under these guidelines is preparing to open next year.

The Parks Department for the City of San Antonio has been working for the last two years with the US Fish and Wildlife Department on making sure we develop the properties responsibly.

The City held its first groundbreaking for the Proposition 3 properties on October 23, 2004 for the Crownridge Canyon Natural Area. This was a successful event which allowed members of the community to come out and not only be involved in the groundbreaking but take a tour of the natural areas before the park is finished being developed. The projected opening date for this natural area facility will be in April 2005.

The San Antonio Parks Foundation will also be holding an event in Spring 2005 highlighting properties purchased under Proposition 3. If you are interested in attending this function you may contact Melissa Cabello-Havrda at the Parks Foundation at 212-8423.

For more information about District 8 Parks, please contact Janice Pokrant at 207-2888.

District 8 Bond Projects Building a Better Future

In November 2003, residents of San Antonio approved a \$115,000,000 bond package with projects to be completed by 2007.

“District 8 projects are moving forward at a rapid pace, and I look forward to seeing the majority, if not all, of our projects in place by 2006,” said Councilman Hall.

Included in the 2003-2007 bond program were a number of improvements and enhancements to city facilities in parks in District 8.

“One of my top priorities has been ensuring the expansion of libraries and parklands in our city,” said Hall. “The bond program provided a way to ensure needed expansions and repairs could be funded and completed sooner rather than later.”

Among the improvements coming to District 8 is the expansion of the Edmund Cody Branch Library parking lot. Based on current projections, work should begin in April

2005 on the new parking lot, with completion slated for July 2005. This project will more than double the current parking capacity at Cody Library, the busiest branch in the San Antonio Public Library System.

Another major improvement coming to District 8 is the creation of the Medical Center Area Senior Multi-Services and Health Center. This “One Stop” resource center for seniors will serve the entire city and county and is projected to be open in the summer of 2006.

“Increasing citizen access to the services provided by municipal government is one of the best ways to ensure the needs in our community are being addressed,” said Hall.

For more information on the bond projects or to check the status of a particular project, please visit the City of San Antonio’s bond website: www.sanantonio.gov/2003bond

Or call the District 8 office at 207-2888.

Repairing the roads we drive on... 2005 Street Maintenance Program

Councilman Hall recently approved the Fiscal Year 2005 Street Maintenance Program for District 8.

“During the budget workshops for the 2005-2006 budget, City Council identified street maintenance and construction as the highest priority goal and objective for San Antonio,” said Hall.

This year District 8 will receive \$1,841,506.90 in street work on 37 designated projects.

“While we don’t have enough money to fund every request for street maintenance that we receive, I am proud that we are making tremendous strides in addressing major roadways in District 8 through this year’s program,” said Hall.

Since taking office, Councilman Hall has directed approximately \$3,600,000 in street maintenance funding to District 8.

For more information on the street maintenance program, please contact the District 8 office at 207-2888.

Selected Streets Projects

For a full list please call the District 8 Office at 207-2888

Street	From	To	Cost
Cedar Park	Parkwood	Huntsman	\$201,696
Babcock	Loop 1604	Hausman	\$166,401
Vance Jackson	Huebner	New Oak Park	\$133,541
Vance Jackson	New Oak Park	DeZavala	\$64,843
North Knoll	North Hollow	Oakdell way	\$56,941
North Hollow	Eckert	North Knoll	\$35,006
Ironside	Wurzbach	Colony	\$24,801
Selected Total			\$683,229



District 8 Mission Statement

We represent the Citizens of District 8 and advocate their concerns by proactively addressing quality of life issues and economic viability through open communication and honest, ethical representation.

We will focus on the public good and strive to maintain a sense of community within District 8 and the City of San Antonio.

District 8 Staff

To schedule an appointment with Councilman Hall, please contact Ana Galindo, Senior Executive Secretary, at 207-7086

For issues pertaining to transportation, infrastructure, boards and commissions, military affairs, senior services, public affairs and general office concerns, please contact Leroy Alloway, Chief of Staff, at 207-2888

For issues pertaining to zoning, development, land use, water quality, parks and recreation, the city budget, libraries and other concerns, please contact Janice Pokrant, Chief Advisor, at 207-2888

For issues pertaining to fire and police, investments, human development service funds, arts and culture and other concerns, please contact Nicole Martinez, Chief Advisor, at 207-2888

For issues pertaining to constituent concerns, code compliance and other general inquiries, please contact Alyssa Munoz, Constituent Services Director, at 692-0463

Email: District8@sanantonio.gov
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